

INDOT Long-Range Plan Development Coordination Meeting Notes
Meeting with the Southern Indiana Development Commission
Conducted at the Vincennes District Offices, May 12, 2006
3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

In Attendance: *Sam Sarvis, Vincennes District Director*
 John Curry, Vincennes District Planning Director
 Khalil Dughais, Vincennes District
 Calvin Evans, Vincennes District Local Assistance
 Pam Drach, Vincennes District Program & Budget Manager
 John Myers, Vincennes District
 Jo Arthur, Executive Director
 Southern Indiana Development Commission
 Steve Smith, Manager – INDOT Long-Range Planning Section
 Jay Mitchell, Planner – INDOT Long-Range Planning Section
 Emmanuel Nsonwu, INDOT Urban & Corridor Planning

The meeting began with introductions. Jo Arthur then explained that the Southern Indiana Development Commission served Davies, Greene, Lawrence, Knox and Martin Counties.

I-69 Community Planning Grants: Jo Arthur inquired about the status of the I-69 Community Planning Grant program. Steve Smith responded that the “notice-to-proceed” has just been issued to HNTB, the consulting firm selected to administer Phase I of the program. Phase I of the program calls for an assessment of those planning practices currently in place along the corridor, the development of corridor strategies for economic development and, the development of a tool kit for local communities along the corridor to prepare for the anticipated impact of the new interstate facility. Phase I was anticipated to take about 12 months to complete. Phase II will come on the heels of Phase I and will provide grants to identified counties and cities along the corridor. There may be a possibility to “fast-track” the phase II process for those counties and cities that are more prepared to begin the Phase II work.

I-69: Regarding those projects in the INDOT Long-Range Plan and in the draft Major Moves Program, Ms. Arthur pointed out that the new I-69 interstate was clearly the project that garnered the most attention and that will have the single greatest impact on the SIDC region.

US 50 from the east end of the Washington Bypass where I-69 will tie in to US 231 in

Loogootee: This 2016 IPOC candidate project was identified by SIDC as being a very significant project for the area. Ms. Arthur noted that it had been in the planning stages for quite some time, as far back as the 1970s. She also pointed out that the project will establish a 4-lane divided highway link to I-69 to the west and the new improvements to US 231 to the south, connecting with I-64. She views the project as a strategically important transportation link. There has been some recent positive economic activity in and near the town of Montgomery.

Economic development activity in the region that would benefit from the Major Moves

program: Ms. Arthur also provided a review of some of the economic development activities that were taking place in the region that would benefit from I-69 and the Major Moves program.

West Gate at Crane is a new technology park located near the Crane Naval Weapons Support Center and next to the new I-69. This park is located near both Crane and to the new Interstate 69. These two assets make the West Gate Technology Park a very promising economic development engine for Southwestern Indiana. Already, EG&G, a US Department of Defense contractor working with the nearby Crane base has committed to locating in the park. Ms. Arthur did point out that there are some concerns about the design for the I-69/US 231 interchange since it will be located close to West Gate and may cut off some of the access to the facility. The I-69 Tier II work will address this issue.

The Town of Mitchell is experiencing economic growth as well. Spin off economic development in the form of auto parts manufacturers and suppliers that provide materials and products to the Toyota manufacturing plant in Princeton will also benefit from any transportation improvements that provide improved access to US 41 where Toyota is located.

Review of the Statewide Mobility Corridor System: Steve Smith handed out a map which showed the current INDOT Statewide Mobility Corridors. He explained that INDOT was in the process of updating and refining the Statewide Mobility Corridor hierarchy and that he was asking for input from the District, Mpos and the RPOs in this process. After a quick review of the map, Ms Arthur asked if SR 67 should also be included as a Mobility Corridor. Steve Smith said that Planning will take the SR 67 suggestion under advisement as it updates the Mobility Corridors.

Access Control: Steve Smith handed out a copy of proposed access management guidelines. He provided a brief explanation; the handout is one of the products that is being developed from the Access Management Study.

Other Transportation Items: Ms. Arthur said that additional funding on the local level for the local road, streets and bridges continues to be an issue. It was noted that one of the benefits from the Major Moves program was additional funding for counties and cities for their transportation projects. The actual dollar amounts for each governmental unit should be published soon.

Davies County has concern about bridge wash-outs. The county also has developed a good bridge replacement program.